

Artifacts from Four Ancient Civilizations Gather in Ningbo

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On July 6, a highly anticipated exhibition titled "Civilizations of the Great Rivers", opened at the Ningbo Museum, co-hosted by Ningbo Museum and the China Cultural Relics Exchange Centre. This exhibition brought together a total of 199 cultural relics from four major museums in Italy and 13 cultural and heritage institutions in China. In a spacious exhibition hall spanning thousands of square meters, authentic artifacts from the four ancient civilizations gathered, engaging in a dialogue on the same stage.

7月6日,宁波今夏重磅特展——宁波博物院与中国文物交流中心共同主办的“大河文明”展在宁波博物馆开幕。该展览联合意大利四家博物馆和国内13家文博单位,共计展出199件(套)文物。上千平方米的展厅空间里,世界四大文明古国相关原真文物齐聚,展开“同台”对话。

The four ancient civilizations – China, Egypt, the Indus valley, and Mesopotamia – all originated along rivers, hence being collectively regarded as the "Civilizations of the Great Rivers". The unique geographical features created by each river have played a significant role in shaping such diverse civilizations. The exhibition hall connects these civilizations with a "blue river" as a central theme. This showcases a comparative display of the four civilizations from various perspectives, such as the influence of rivers on the cultivation of civilization and art, the beliefs, as well as the establishment of cities, agriculture, and manufacturing. This presentation offers visitors a glimpse into the origins of human civilization.

世界四大文明——古埃及文明、古印度文明、两河流域文明、中华文明,都是依河发源,故统称“大河文明”。而不同的河流环境,也塑造了气质迥异的文明形态。展厅以一条“蓝色河流”进行串联,从河流对文明的塑造、艺术的培养、信仰的影响、城市的建立、农业及物质生产等角度,将四大文明放在同一横截面,进行对比式的展示,带观众回望人类文明的源头。

Strolling through the exhibition hall, visitors will find authentic artifacts unearthed from various archaeological sites. These include clay cuneiform tablets that are over 6,000-year-old, as well as animal mummies, painted wooden coffins, and the Egyptian Book of the Dead from approximately 3,000 years



Pyramid in the exhibition hall. (credit: Gu Jiayi)



Ancient Model of a Multistory House from China. (credit: Gu Jiayi)

ago. Attendees will also encounter representative pottery and jade artifacts from prehistoric Chinese civilization, as well as bronze vessels from the Western Zhou dynasty (1046BC - 771BC) and porcelain from the Yangtze River Basin. The historical and cultural significance of these artifacts, along with the cycles of prosperity and decline they represent, can provoke profound contemplation about the shared fate of humanity.

漫步展厅,得以一见各处遗迹出土的原真文物,包括6000年前的楔形文字泥板、约3000年前的动物木乃伊、彩绘木棺、亡灵书,以及史前中华文明代表性的陶器、玉器、西周的青铜器、长江流域的瓷器等。这些文物各自承载的历史与文化,其中的兴盛与衰败、连续与断裂,足以引起人们对人类共同命运的深思。

The exhibition showcases artifacts related to the Liangzhu civilization and the Erlitou culture, providing evidence of the enduring nature of Chinese civilization over 5,000 years. It highlights the characteristics of "diversity, unity, inclusiveness, and continuity." The final section of the exhibition hall, dedicated to the "Silk Road", symbolically connects the rivers to the oceans to illustrate how civilizations are interrelated. This section also delves into the present-day significance of the exchange and convergence of different civilizations and the emergence of new dynamics.

本次展览所展出良渚文明和二里头文化的相关展品,实证了五千年中华文明的延续性,更凸显其“多元一体、兼容并蓄、绵延不断”的特质。展厅最后的“丝绸之路”部分,进一步挖掘了世界文明交流融合、更迭新生的当代价值,

用河流链接了海洋。

China Cultural Relics Exchange Center and the Ningbo Museum are the two host organizations of this exhibition, with the joint support of four prestigious museums in Italy – the Egyptian Museum (Museo Egizio), the Royal Museum (Musei Reali), the Museum of Oriental Art (Museo d'Arte Orientale) in Turin, and the Giovanni Barracco Museum of Ancient Sculpture in Rome. This collaboration brings forth a fresh chapter in cultural exchanges and cooperation between China and Italy and promotes each country's splendid civilization and rich history. In recent years, the city of Ningbo has achieved significant results in cooperation with its Italian sister cities, not only in the field of economic trade but also in the promotion of historical heritage, cultural and artistic research, and the exchange of expertise in the restoration of cultural relics. These achievements have become highlights of the bilateral exchange and cooperation between the two countries.

“大河文明”展由中国文物交流中心与宁波博物院联合主办,享誉世界的意大利都灵埃及博物馆、都灵皇家博物馆、都灵东方艺术博物馆、罗马乔万尼·巴拉科古雕塑博物馆共同协办,续写了中意文化交流合作新篇章。中国与意大利都是历史悠久、文明灿烂的国度。近年来,宁波市同意大利友城不仅在经贸领域合作取得显著成效,在历史古迹推广、文化艺术研究、文物修缮技术等领域的交流也成果纷呈,成为双方交流合作的亮点。

This summer, come and join us on a journey of appreciation and contemplation as you peruse these artifacts and ancient sites. In the vast expanse of time, spanning the past and the future, let us follow the course of those great rivers and have a retrospective exploration of human history and civilization. The exhibition will be staged until October 8th.

这个夏天,让我们透过这些文物与古迹,在历史与未来深广的时空中,开始一次鉴赏与思考的旅程,沿着那些大江大河,完成一次对人类历史与文明的漫溯。此次展览将持续至10月8日。

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